

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2303

To direct the Librarian of Congress to prepare the history of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 22, 1999

Mr. LARSON (for himself, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. GEPHARDT, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. KIND, Mr. WOLF, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. WU, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. STARK, Mr. FROST, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. LAFALCE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KING, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. METCALF, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. STUMP, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. FORBES, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. QUINN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. VENTO, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. HOEFFEL, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ, Mr. FILNER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MOORE, Ms. LEE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. BORSKI, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. NORTON, Mr. WEINER, Mr. NEY, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. HILL of Indiana, Ms. DANNER, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. WYNN, Mr. EHRLICH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ROGAN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. SPENCE, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SABO, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. ARCHER, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TURNER, Mr. BASS, Mr. DIXON, Mr. PHELPS, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. MURTHA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr.

SOUDER, Mr. FALCOMA, Mr. MICA, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. EWING, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. HOYER, Mr. BOYD, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. BENTSEN, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. CRANE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. WALSH, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GANSKE, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. PORTER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SAWYER, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. HORN, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. SHAW, Mr. UPTON, Mr. BERRY, Mr. HILL of Montana, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BATEMAN, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. SISISKY, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. REYES, Mr. ROEMER, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. LEACH, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. OLVER, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. MOAKLEY, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GORDON, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mrs. FOWLER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. GOODE, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. SKEEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To direct the Librarian of Congress to prepare the history of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “History of the House
 5 Awareness and Preservation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. WRITTEN HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENT-**
2 **ATIVES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to available funding, the
4 Librarian of Congress shall prepare a new and complete
5 written history of the United States House of Representa-
6 tives. In preparing this written history, the Librarian of
7 Congress shall consult, commission, or engage the services
8 or participation of, eminent historians, and Members or
9 former Members of the House of Representatives.

10 (b) GUIDELINES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the
11 Librarian of Congress shall take into account the fol-
12 lowing:

13 (1) The history should be an illustrated, nar-
14 rative history of the House of Representatives, orga-
15 nized chronologically.

16 (2) The history's intended audience is the gen-
17 eral reader, as well as Members of Congress and
18 their staffs.

19 (3) The history should include a discussion of
20 the First and Second Continental Congresses and
21 the Constitutional Convention, especially with regard
22 to their roles in creating the House of Representa-
23 tives.

24 (c) PRINTING.—

25 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Librarian of Congress
26 shall arrange for the printing of the history.

1 (2) PRINTING ARRANGEMENTS.—The printing
2 may be performed—

3 (A) by the Public Printer pursuant to the
4 provisions of chapter 5 of title 44, United
5 States Code;

6 (B) under a cooperative arrangement
7 among the Librarian of Congress, a private
8 funding source obtained pursuant to subsection
9 (e), and a publisher in the private sector; or

10 (C) under subparagraphs (A) and (B).

11 (3) INTERNET EXCERPTING.—Any arrangement
12 under paragraph (2) shall include terms for dissemi-
13 nation of excerpts of the history over the Internet
14 via facilities maintained by the United States Gov-
15 ernment.

16 (4) MEMBER COPIES.—To the extent that the
17 history is printed by the Public Printer, copies of the
18 history provided to the Congress under subsection
19 (d) shall be charged to the Government Printing Of-
20 fice's congressional allotment for printing and bind-
21 ing.

22 (d) DISTRIBUTION.—The Librarian of Congress shall
23 make the history available for sale to the public, and shall
24 make available, free of charge, 5 copies to each Member

1 of the House of Representatives and 250 copies to the
2 Senate.

3 (e) PRIVATE FUNDING.—The Librarian of Congress
4 may solicit and accept funding for the preparation, publi-
5 cation, marketing, and public distribution of the history
6 from private individuals, organizations, or entities.

7 **SEC. 3. ORAL HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-**
8 **TIVES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Librarian of Congress shall
10 accept for deposit, preserve, maintain, and make acces-
11 sible, an oral history of the United States House of Rep-
12 resentatives, as told by its Members and former Members,
13 compiled and updated (on a voluntary or contract basis)
14 by the United States Association of Former Members of
15 Congress or other outside organization. In carrying out
16 this section, the Librarian of Congress may enlist the vol-
17 untary aid or assistance of such organization, or may con-
18 tract with it for such services as may be necessary.

19 (b) DEFINITION OF ORAL HISTORY.—In this section,
20 the term “oral history” means a story or history consisting
21 of the personal recollection as recorded in any one or more
22 of the following means:

- 23 (1) Interviews;
24 (2) Transcripts;
25 (3) Audio recordings;

1 (4) Video recordings; or

2 (5) Such other form or means as may be suit-
3 able for the recording and preservation of such in-
4 formation.

5 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

6 It is the sense of the Congress that—

7 (1) orientation programs for freshman Members
8 of the House of Representatives should contain a
9 seminar on the history of the House of Representa-
10 tives; and

11 (2) the Speaker of the House of Representa-
12 tives should conduct a series of forums on the topic
13 of the history of the House of Representatives.

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